



National Nuclear Security Administration
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NEWS

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Y-12 Hosts 100th IAEA Inspection

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee--The Y-12 National Security Complex hosted its 100th inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency today. The inspections are part of the United States' commitment to Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that was entered into by the United States in 1970. Y-12 has been hosting monthly inspections by IAEA since 1994.

This milestone inspection comes during a historical time for the Oak Ridge facility--the same year Y-12 celebrates its 60th anniversary.

"Y-12's job from the very beginning was to protect America's future and we've been doing that for 60 years," said Dennis Ruddy, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12, which operates the facility for the National Nuclear Security Administration. "It is essential that the United States and we at Y-12 set an example for the entire world by taking all steps available to support the critical work that IAEA performs."

William Brumley, manager of the NNSA's Y-12 Site Office, said, "We take our commitment to these inspections very seriously at Y-12 as marked by our 100th inspection. The IAEA serves an essential role in protecting global security and we support them in this capacity."

For countries signing the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, the IAEA establishes safeguards systems used to verify compliance.

To date, 188 parties, including the five nuclear-weapons states, have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The non-nuclear weapon states submit nuclear materials, facilities and activities to the scrutiny of IAEA's safeguards inspectors. By signing this treaty, governments around the world are committing to three objectives: preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, pursuing nuclear disarmament, and promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As a nuclear weapons state, the United States is not required to submit nuclear materials to IAEA safeguards. To demonstrate commitment to the disarmament goals of the NPT, the United States has submitted excess nuclear material, including material at Y-12, to inspection by the IAEA. The goal of those

inspections is to provide assurance that the materials are not returned to weapons uses.

Inspectors examined about 10 metric tons of highly enriched uranium that was declared excess to U.S. defense purposes by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and voluntarily placed under IAEA safeguards. This represents nearly half of the highly enriched uranium worldwide that is currently under IAEA safeguards.

Upon completing Y-12's first inspection in 1994, IAEA inspectors commented that never before had they verified so much material of such high strategic value, in such a short amount of time, with such a high degree of accuracy, as they did at the Y-12 facility.

BWXT Y-12, a limited liability enterprise of BWX Technologies Inc. and Bechtel National Inc., operates the Y-12 National Security Complex for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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